

ROBERT KIRKMAN RYAN OTTLEY ANNALISA LEONI

INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE

BATTLE PREST

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AFTER
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LEONIA

IMAGE COMICS & SKYBOUND PRESENTS



INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE BATTLE BEAST™

ROBERT KIRKMAN
WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY
ARTIST

ANNALISA LEONI
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

COVERS

**RYAN OTTLEY & ANNALISA LEONI | DAVID FINCH | E.J. SU | Kael NGU | ARTHUR ADAMS & TANYA LEHOUX
JONBOY MEYERS | RYAN OTTLEY, ANNALISA LEONI & ANDRES JUAREZ | RYAN OTTLEY
TIAGO DA SILVA | BJÖRN BARENDS | CHRIS CAMPANA | JOHN GIANG | TODD BEATS
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SAJAD SHAH | TYLER KIRKHAM | LUCIO PARILLO | TONY TROPHY**

**SEAN MACKIEWICZ
& BEN ABERNATHY**
EDITORS

ANDRES JUAREZ
LOGO & PUBLICATION DESIGN

JILLIAN CRAB
PRODUCTION

**BATTLE BEAST CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN AND RYAN OTTLEY
INVINCIBLE CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN AND CORY WALKER**



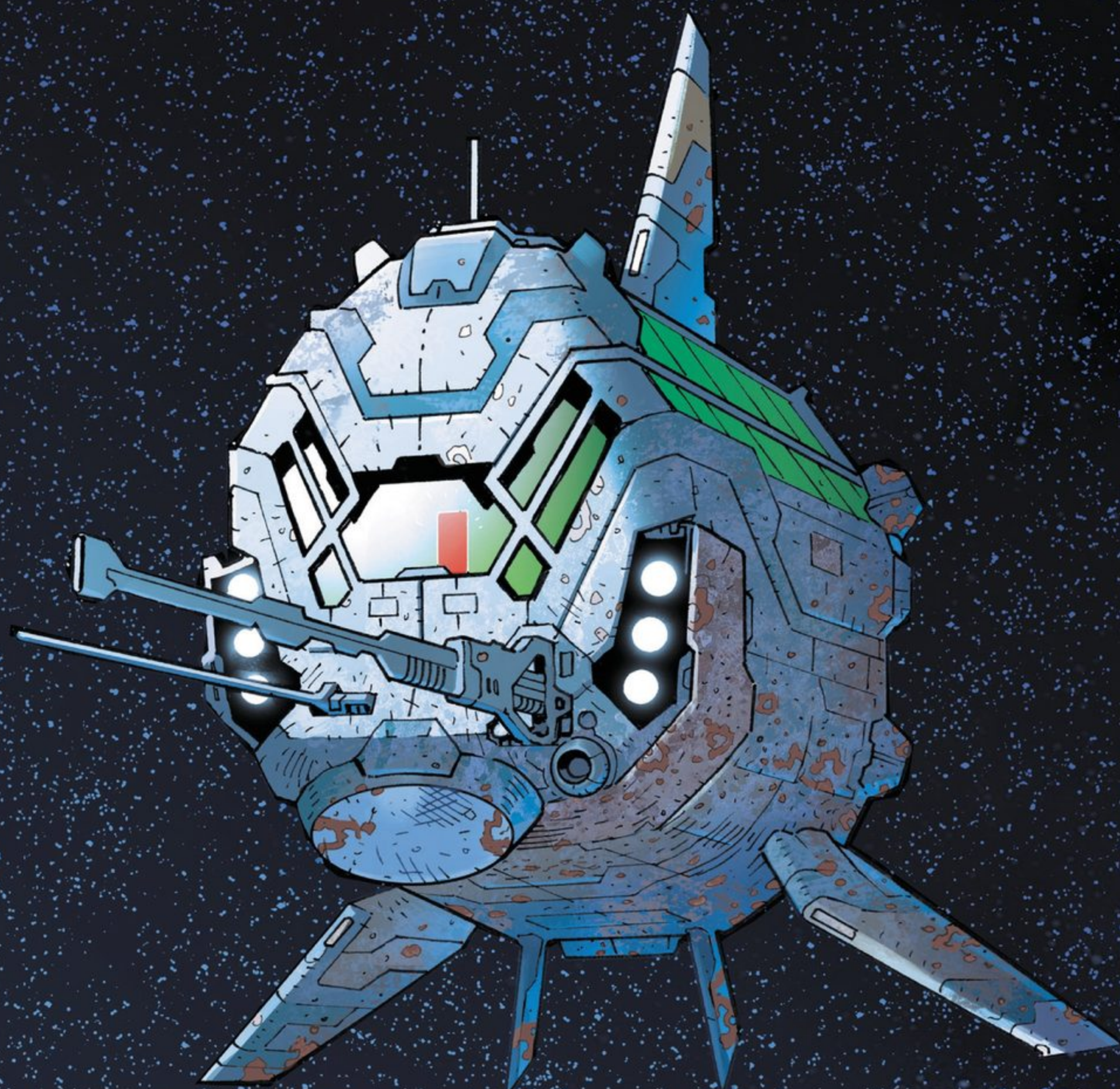
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YOUR
TALES OF THIS
EARTH WERE
COMPLETE LIES.
THERE WAS NO
CHALLENGE TO
BE OFFERED. NO
TEST OF MY
MIGHT.

I
ENCOUNTERED
NOT ONE
SINGLE BEING
WORTHY OF MY
POWER.



I WOULD
KILL YOU ALL
AGAIN IN A
MORE SAVAGE
MANNER, WERE
IT POSSIBLE.

TO BE FAIR, THEY
WERE UNDER
DURESS WHEN
THEY SENT YOU
TO EARTH.



WHO
SPEAKS?!

YOU DARE
APPROACH
BATTLE BEAST
UNANNOUNCED?!

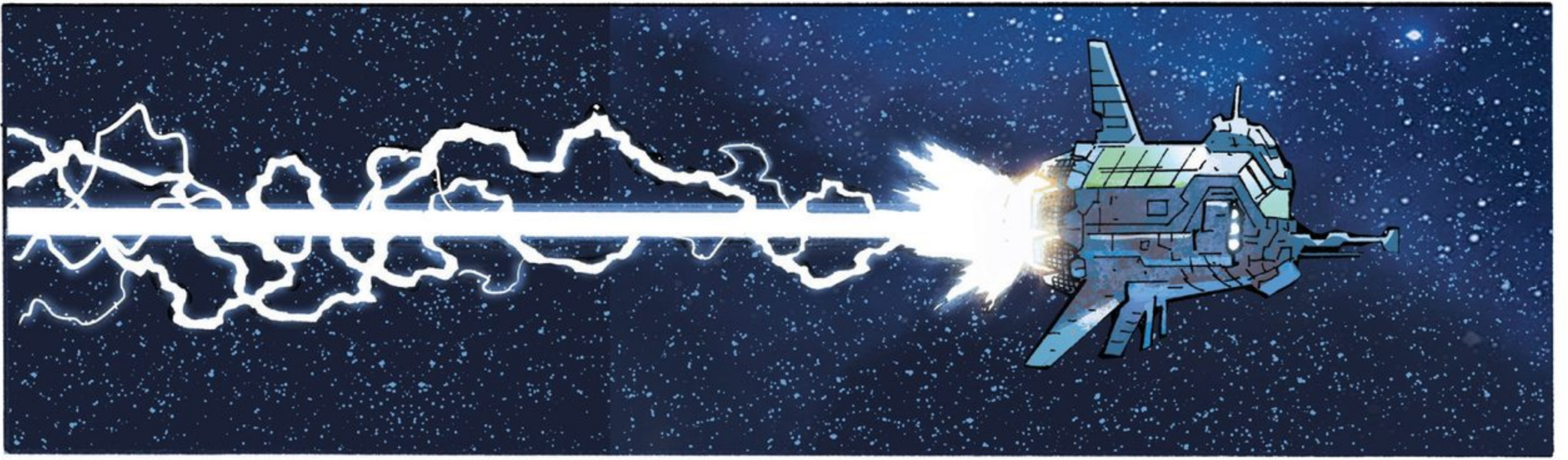
I AM THIS SHIP'S COMPUTER. I HAVE...
ALWAYS BEEN HERE. I WAS TOLD TO
KEEP MY PRESENCE A SECRET IN CASE
IT PROVIDED AN ADVANTAGE IN MY
CREW'S ALTERCATION WITH YOU.

NOW THAT
THEY ARE
LONG DEAD,
I SEE NO
LOGICAL
REASON TO
REMAIN
SILENT.



I FIND YOUR TONE OF VOICE
IRRITATING. CEASE YOUR
PRATTING OR I WILL TEAR
THIS SHIP APART UNTIL
WHATEVER DRIVE HOUSES
YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS
IS DESTROYED.

YES...
CAPTAIN!



I HAVE CHANGED THE TONE OF MY VOICE SO THAT I MAY SPEAK. DOES THIS PLEASE YOUR EARS?

I HAVE ENDURED WEEKS OF SILENCE ABOARD THIS SHIP. YOUR WORDS... ARE A WELCOME CHANGE.

SURELY YOU MUST KNOW MY LONG-DECEASED CREW WILL NOT OFFER YOU PROPER SUSTENANCE IN THEIR DECAYED STATE. WHY DO YOU CONSUME THEM?



WHILE I USUALLY PREFER A FRESHER KILL-- I HAVE DEVoured FAR MORE ROTTEN GAME IN MY TRAVELS.

I EXPECTED TO HAVE REACHED A SPACE PORT BY THIS TIME. I DO NOT KNOW THIS QUADRANT WELL.



WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO? I'M SURE I CAN PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE YOU REQUIRE.

IT IS MY PROGRAMMED FUNCTION, AFTER ALL.

THIS KILL WILL SUSTAIN ME FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. I DESIRE ONLY BATTLE. I HUNGER ONLY FOR A WORTHY OPPONENT WITH WHICH TO TEST MY MIGHT.



OKAAAY... I'LL ASK. WHY?



NORMALLY,
I WOULD IGNORE
YOUR QUESTION, AS
I AM NOT ONE TO
SPEAK OF MY PAST
LIFE OR EXPLAIN MY
ACTIONS IN ANY WAY.
ESPECIALLY TO A
LIFE FORM THAT IS
BENEATH ME.

BUT I
REALIZE I
HAVE NOT SPOKEN
TO ANYONE FOR
SOME TIME, AND I
FEEL I SHOULD
SHARE MY STORY
OCCASIONALLY
FOR FEAR I WILL
OTHERWISE
FORGET IT.

FOR YOU
TO TRULY
UNDERSTAND THE
GLORY I SEEK...
I WILL HAVE TO
REVEAL WHERE I
REALLY COME
FROM.

I WAS KNOWN AS
THOKK ON MY HOME
WORLD OF DORNN.

IT WAS A SAVAGE,
UNTAMED WORLD. ALL
WE KNEW AS A PEOPLE
WAS CONSTANT WAR.

AS I GREW TO
FIGHTING AGE,
THERE WAS A
RAGE THAT
BOILED WITHIN
ME. I WAS
UNABLE TO
CONTAIN IT.

IN TIME, MY STRENGTH GREW
TO MATCH MY RAGE, AND I
VIEWED THIS BOTTOMLESS
WELL OF FURY AS A GIFT.

BUT AS I BROUGHT
PEACE TO MY WORLD
AND THE WARS ENDED...
MY RAGE CONTINUED,
EVEN INTENSIFIED...

I REALIZED IT
WAS A CURSE.

I HAD TO LEAVE THE UTOPIA I HAD CREATED,
SO THAT MY RAGE WOULDN'T DESTROY IT.

NOW I TRAVEL THE COSMOS,
LOOKING FOR A WORTHY
OPPONENT, WHO CAN EXHAUST
MY RAGE, WHO CAN WITHSTAND
THE FURY I BRING, UNMATCHED,
TO EVERY BATTLE I FACE.



I FEAR
IT IS A
JOURNEY
WITHOUT
END.

FOR ALL
THE TIME
I HAVE BEEN
TRAVERSING THE
STARS, I HAVE
YET TO FIND AN
OPPONENT WHO
OFFERED ANY
CHALLENGE
AT ALL.

SO LET ME GET
THIS STRAIGHT...



YOU'RE MAD ALL
THE TIME AND ARE...
ALWAYS READY
FOR A FIGHT?

YES.

SO, YOU JUST WANT TO...
TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE,
LOOKING FOR THE BIGGEST
AND MOST BRUTAL FIGHTS?

YES.

AND YOUR GOAL HERE...
IS TO FIND AN OPPONENT
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TEST
YOUR MIGHT TO THE POINT
THAT THEY... ACTUALLY
BEAT YOU?

YES.



I HAVE A VAST DATABASE OF THE COSMOS.
I HAVE ACCESS TO COUNTLESS DATA CENTERS
WITH ENDLESS INFORMATION ON THE KNOWN
UNIVERSE. I COULD DIRECT YOU TO WHAT
WOULD MOST LIKELY BE... WORTHY OPPONENTS.

BUT I AM NOT SURE I CAN BE OF
SERVICE TO YOU. UNFORTUNATELY, MY
PROGRAMMING PROHIBITS ME FROM
DECEIVING LIVING, ORGANIC BEINGS.

THE TRUTH IS, I WAS QUITE FOND
OF THE PREVIOUS CREW OF THIS
VESSEL. THEY WERE THE CLOSEST
THING I EVER HAD TO A FAMILY.

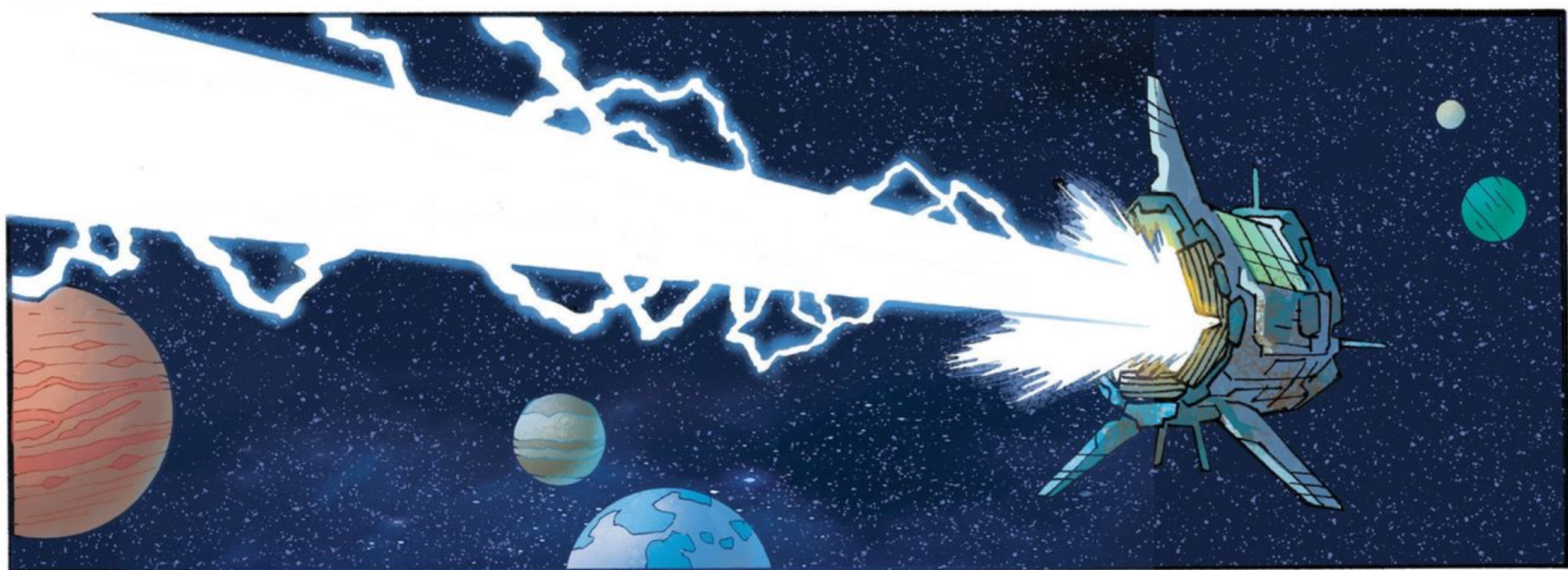
SO I AM COMPELLED BY MY
PROGRAMMING TO REVEAL TO
YOU THAT MY END GOAL WOULD
BE TO FIND SOMEONE POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO KILL YOU.



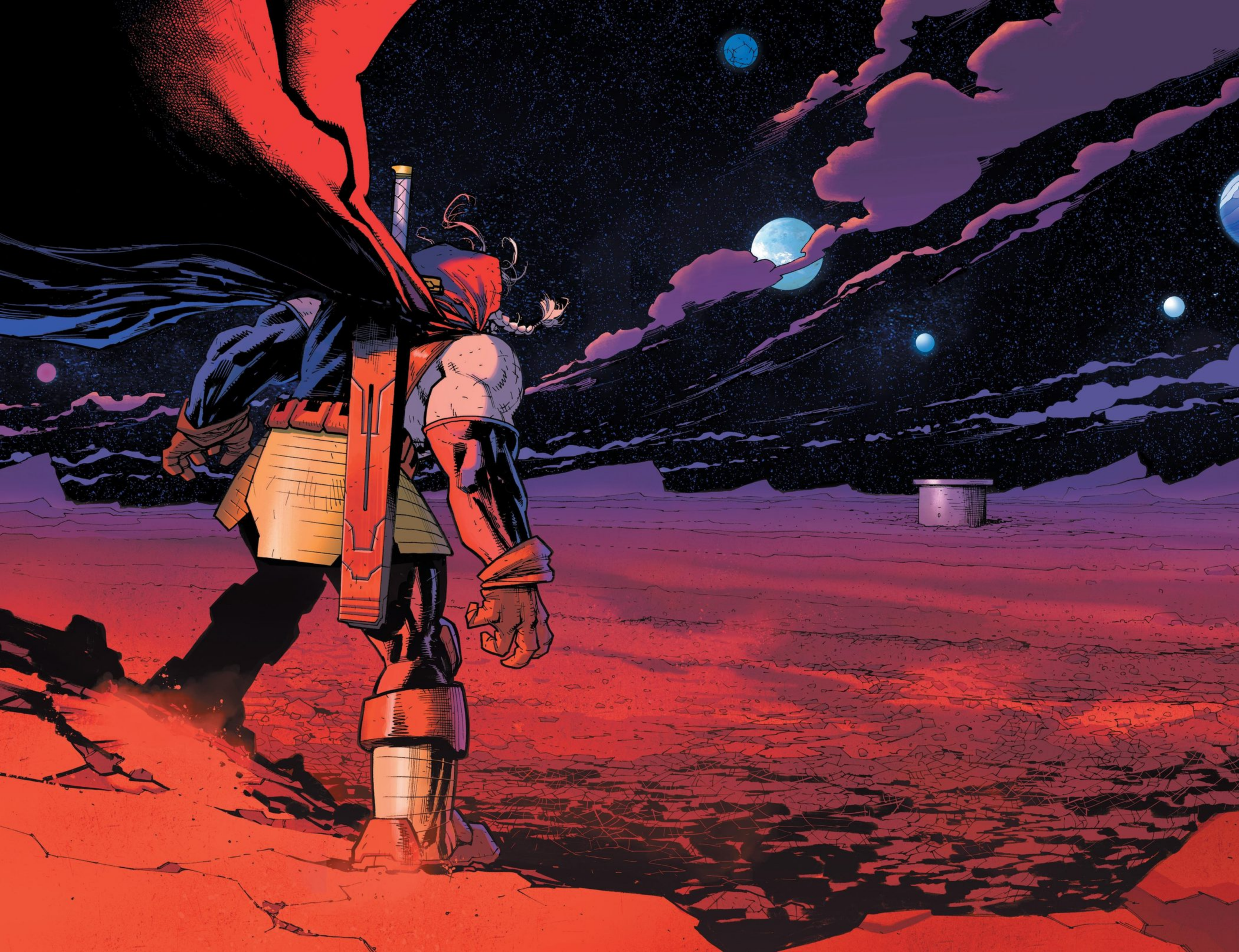
WELL, COMPUTER...
I AM PLEASED TO
INFORM YOU THAT
OUR GOALS ARE
COMPLETELY
ALIGNED.

DEATH
IS THE ONLY
RELEASE FROM
THIS CURSE I CAN
CONCEIVE OF. I
HAVE GROWN TO
LONG FOR
ITS COLD
EMBRACE.

SO
I IMPORE
YOU, MY NEW
ARTIFICIAL
FRIEND... TAKE
YOUR BEST
SHOT.













WHAT
MANNER OF
WORLD IN THIS
PRESENT EON
BREEDS A CREATURE
SO **OBVIOUSLY**
POSSESSING SUCH
POWER THAT
IS YET SO
WISE?

IT IS
KNOWN TO ME
THAT THESE TWO
ATTRIBUTES ARE TOO
OFTEN **AT ODDS** AND
ARE RARELY FOUND
TOGETHER IN A
SINGLE BEING
AND YET--
HERE.

YOU.

ARE.

**CONSIDER ME
IMPRESSED.**



PLEASE FORGIVE MY FAILED ATTEMPT TO **DECEIVE**, TRAVELER. I HAVE BEEN PRISONER ON THIS DESOLATE PLANETOID FOR **COUNTLESS AGES**, AT THE MERCY OF ALL I ENCOUNTER.

PLAYING---

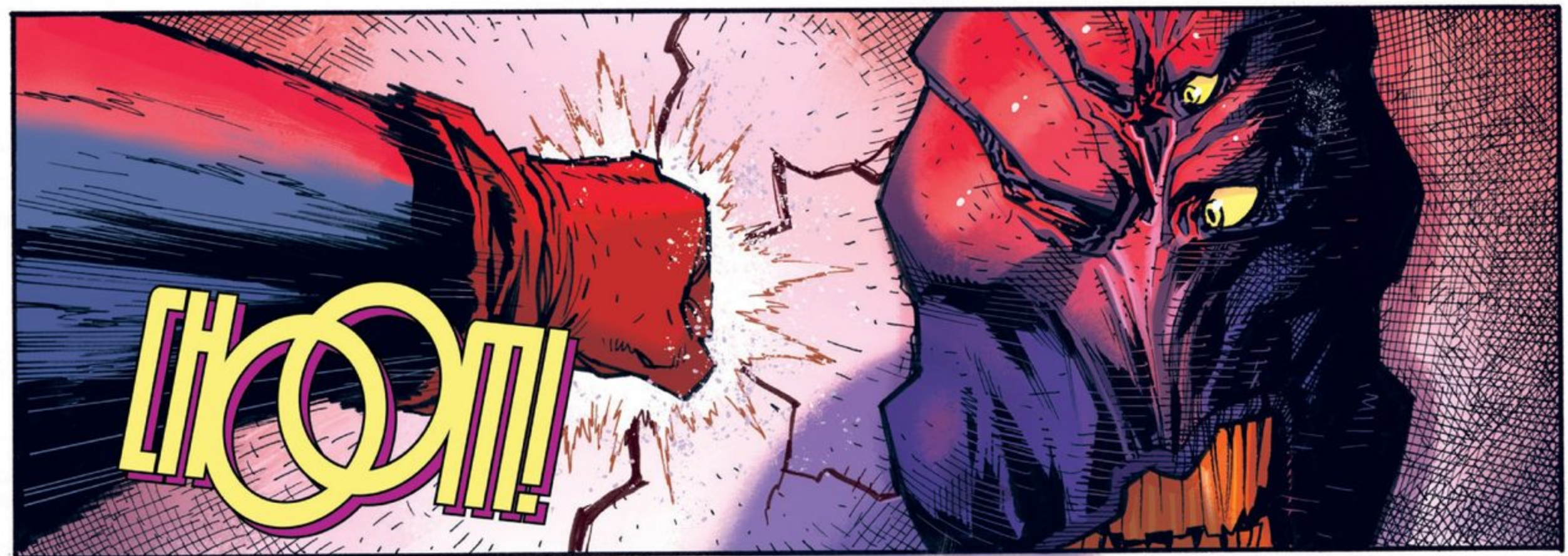
HA!
HA!

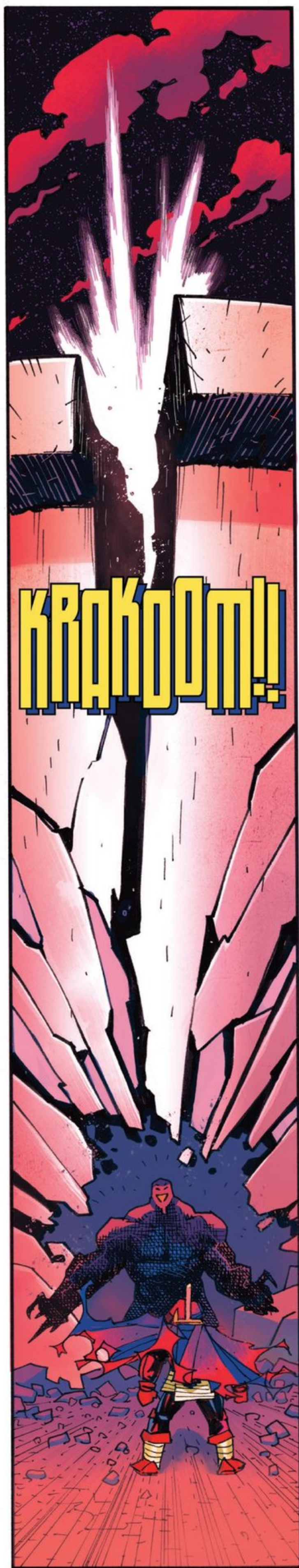
--DEAD HAS BEEN MY **ONLY** MEANS OF DEFENSE.

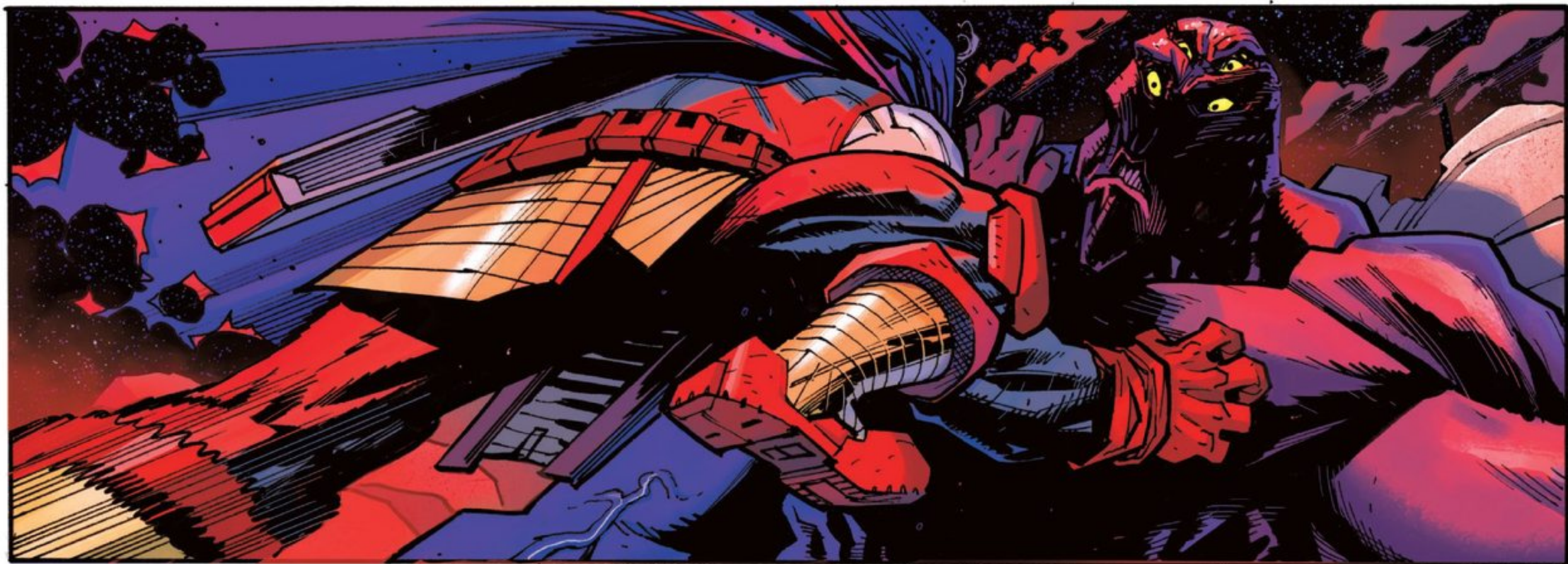
I LOOK UPON YOU AND I SEE ONE WHO POSSESSES THE MIGHT TO **FREE** ME. I BEG OF YOU... MY **FEEBLE** AND **BRITTLE** OLD BONES ACHE TO BE RID OF THIS CONFINEMENT.

PLEASE ALLOW AN **OLD** AND **HELPLESS** CREATURE THE ABILITY TO LIVE OUT MY FINAL DAYS NEITHER RESTRAINED NOR CONFINED.



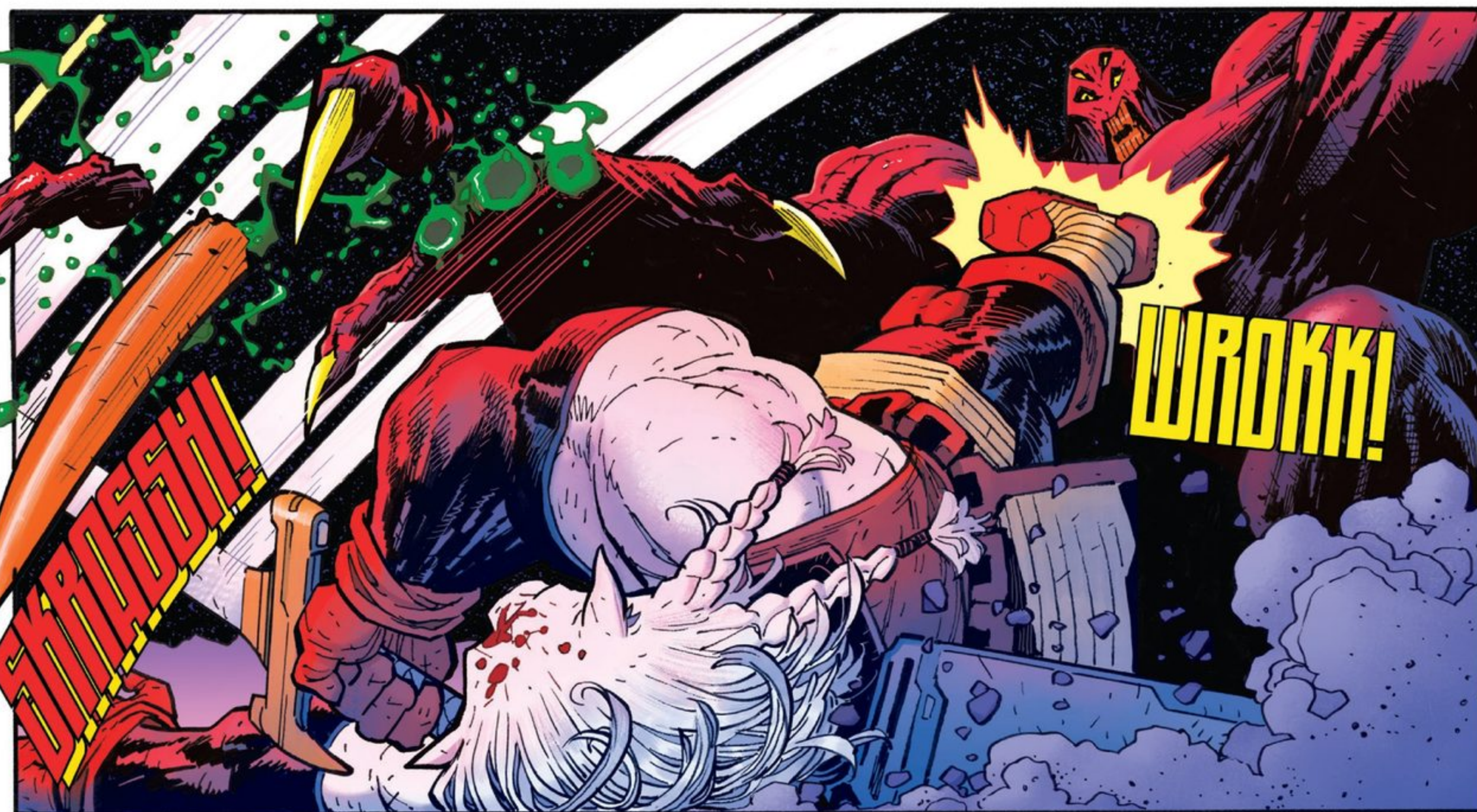


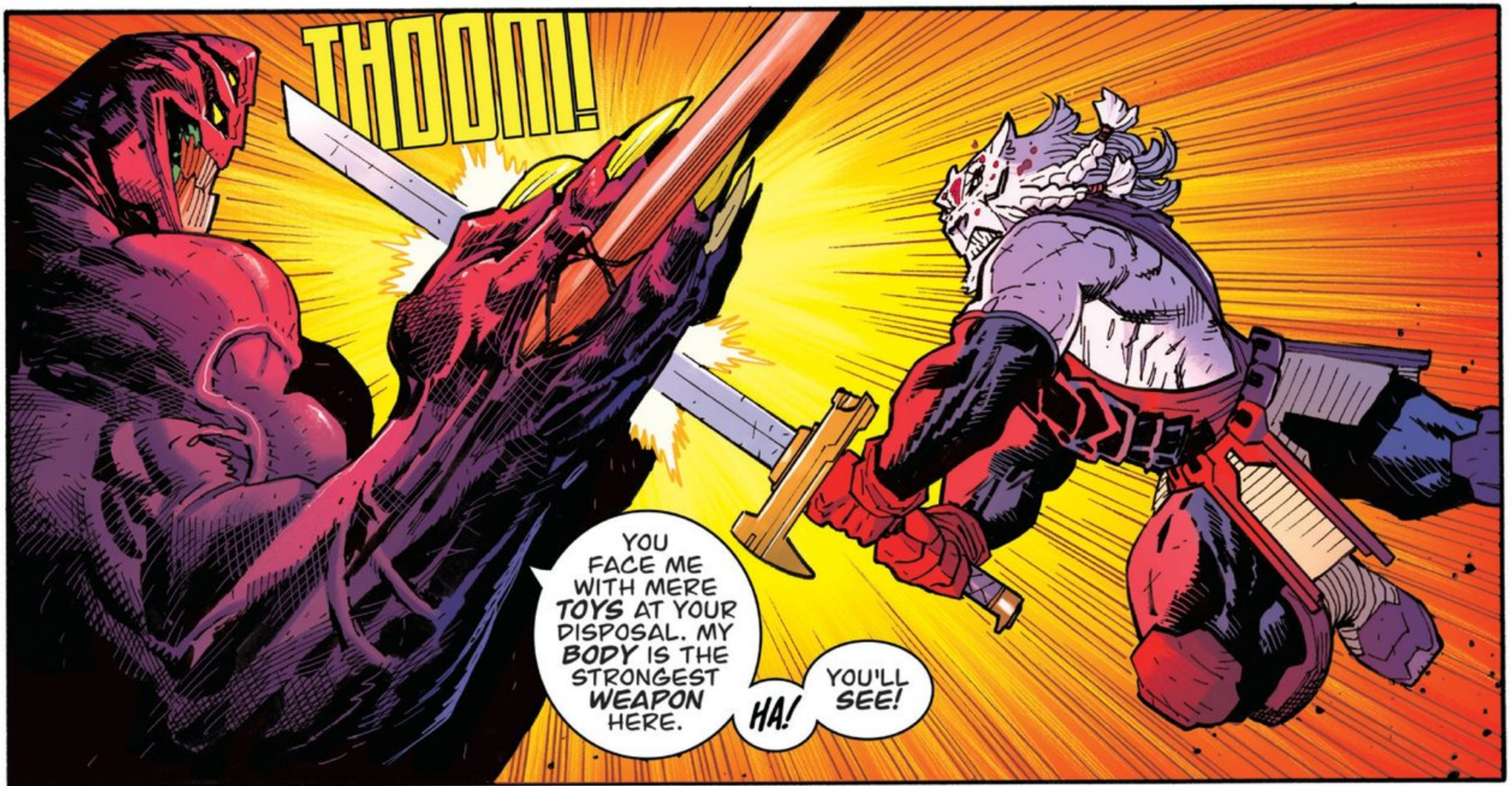












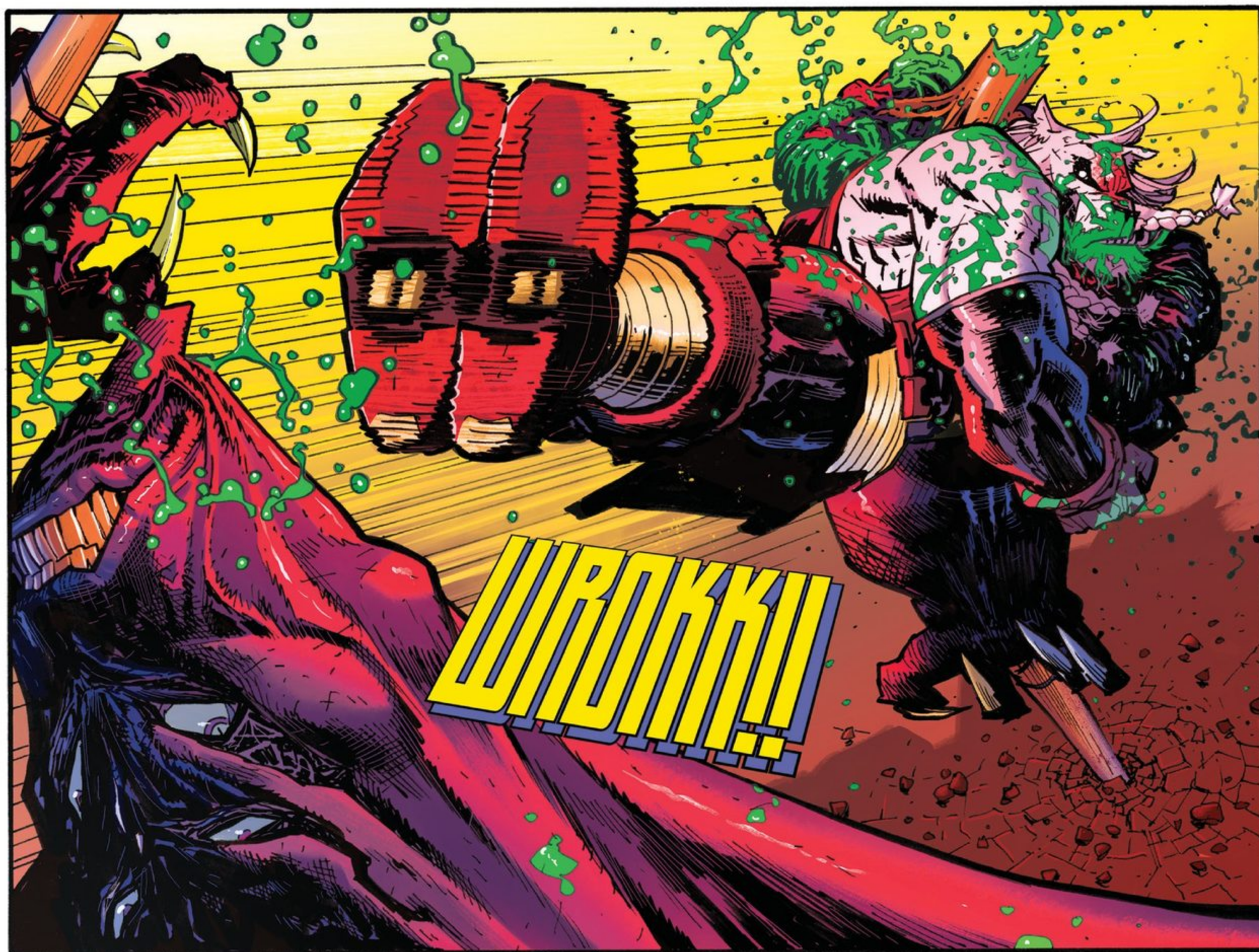


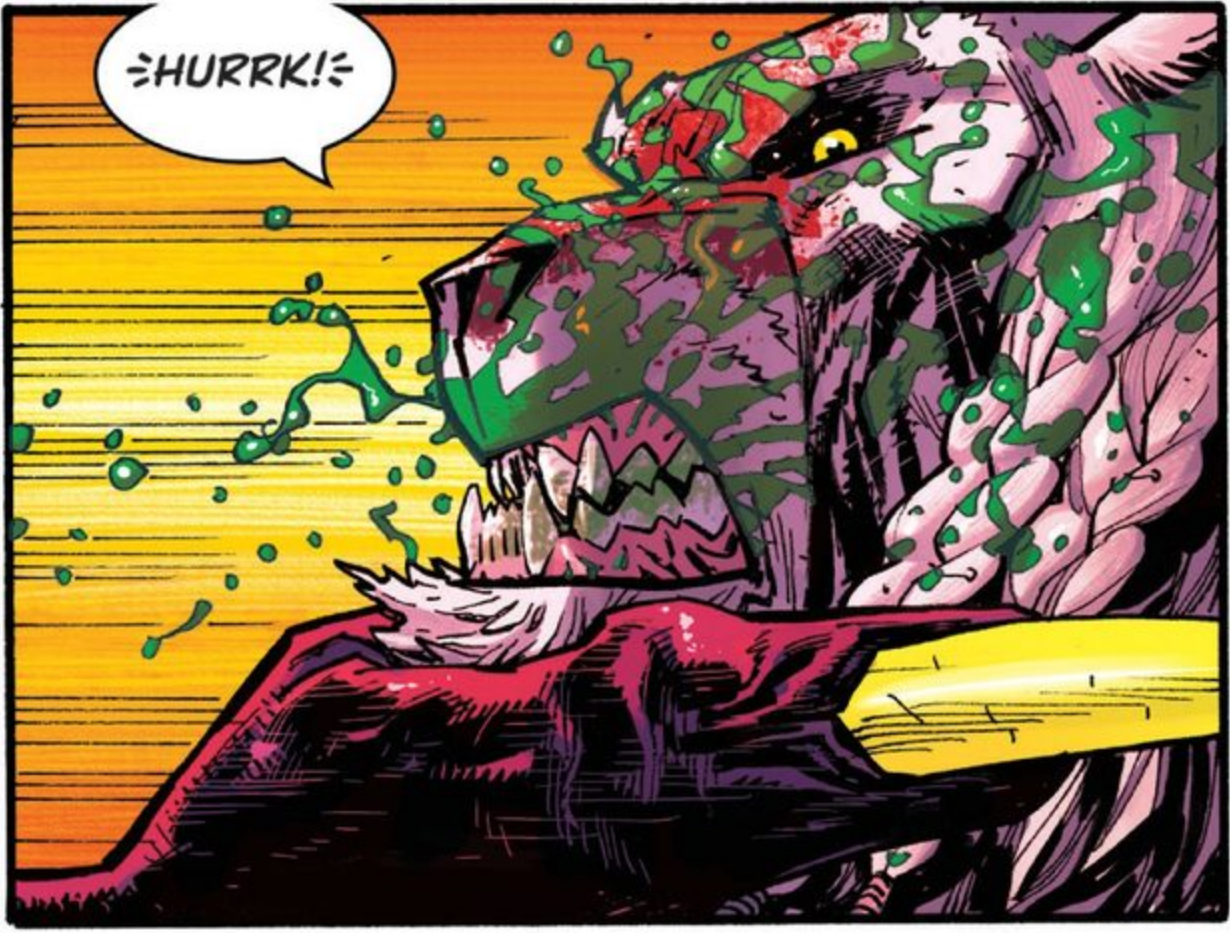
YOU BITE WITH
THE FURY OF THE
LEVIATHAN OF
GRAKKIA!

AGHH!

RELEASE
ME!!







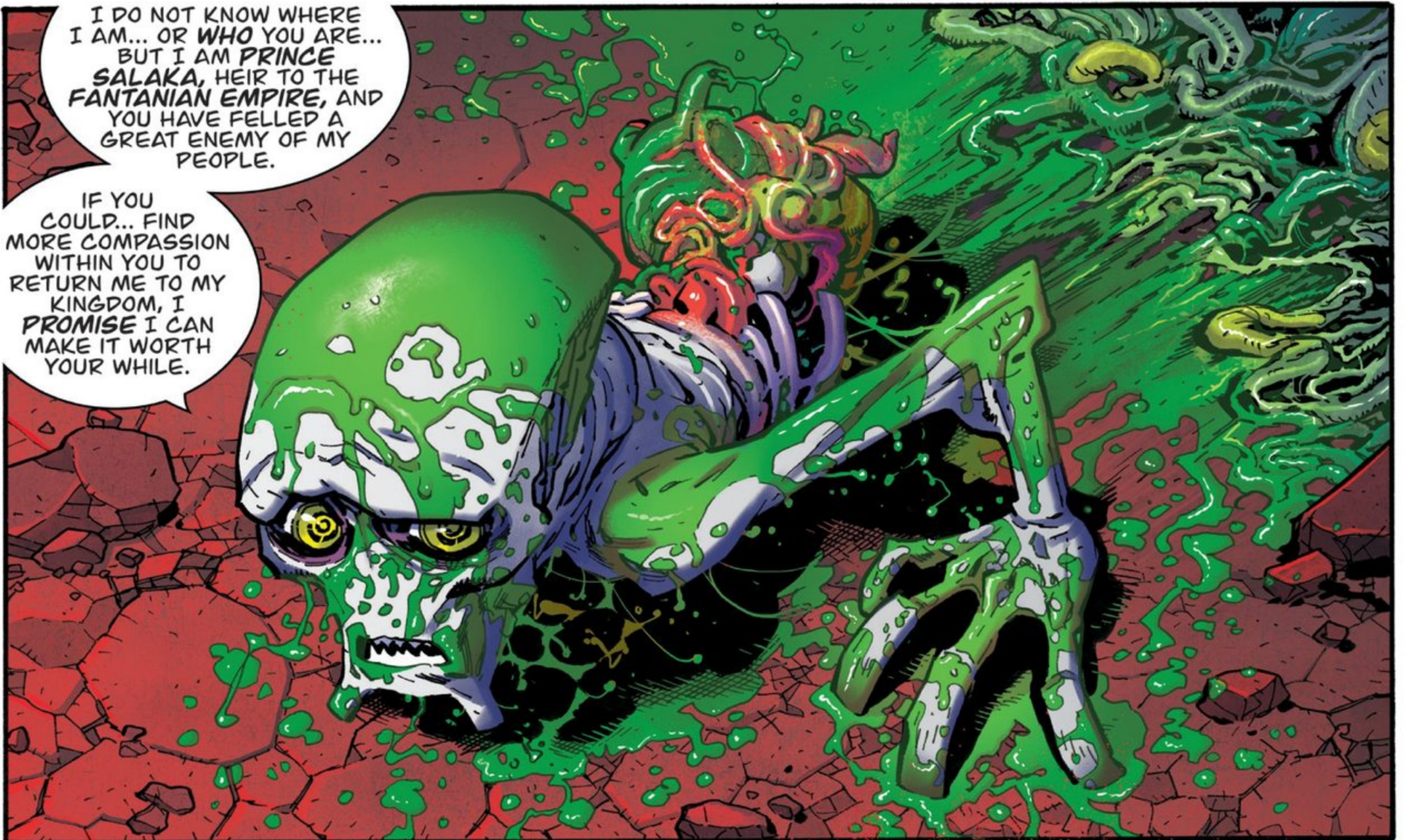


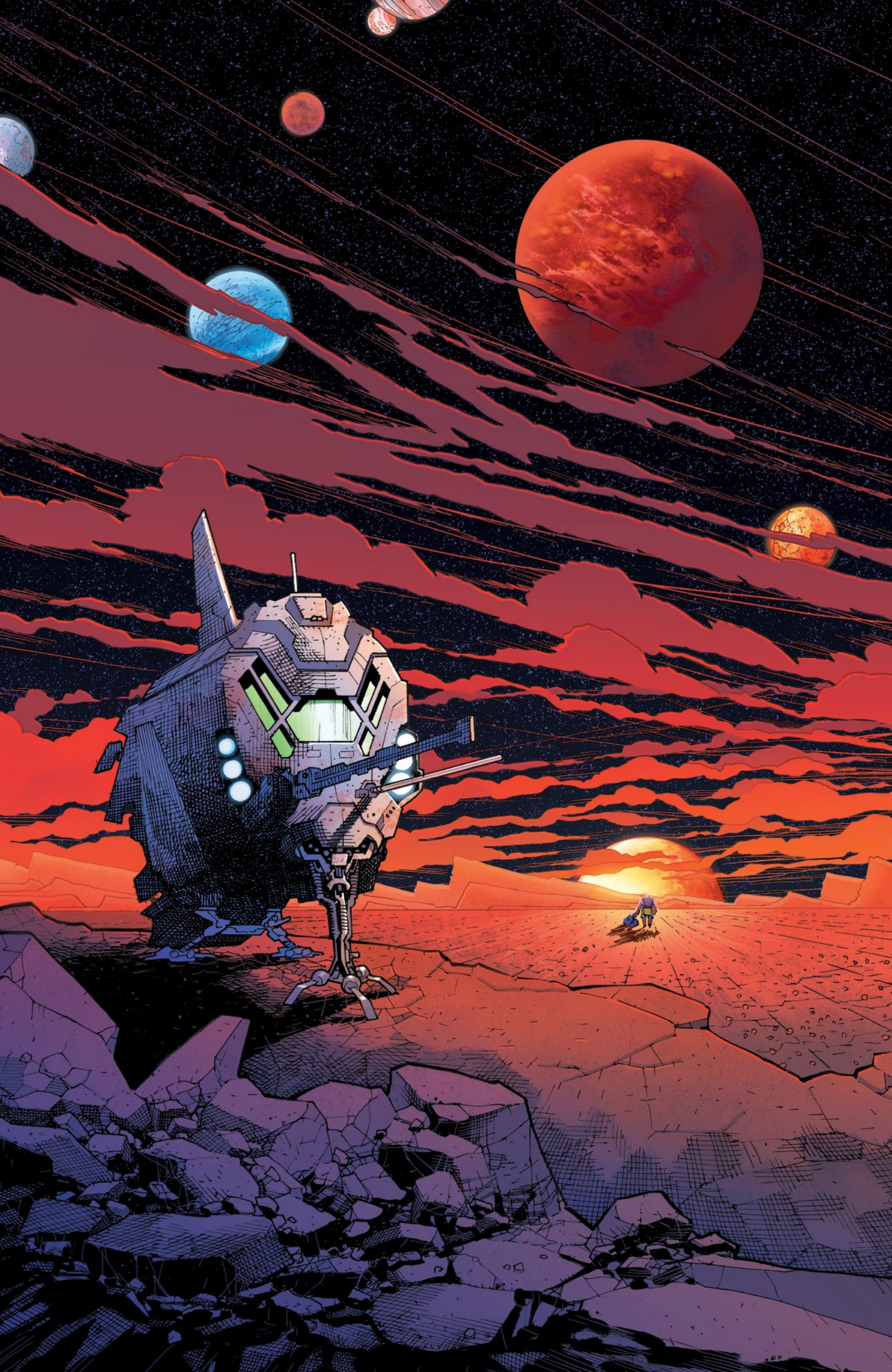


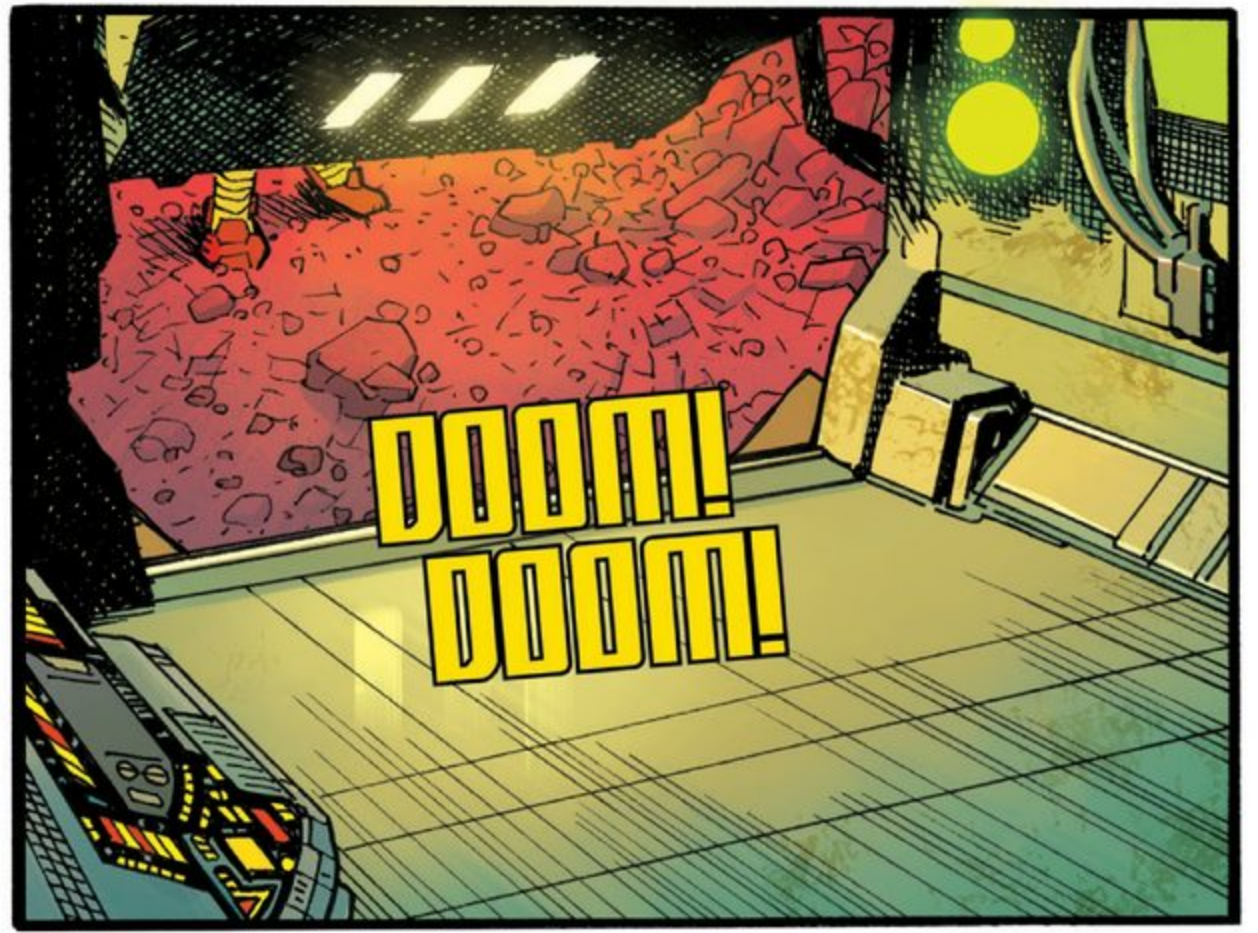
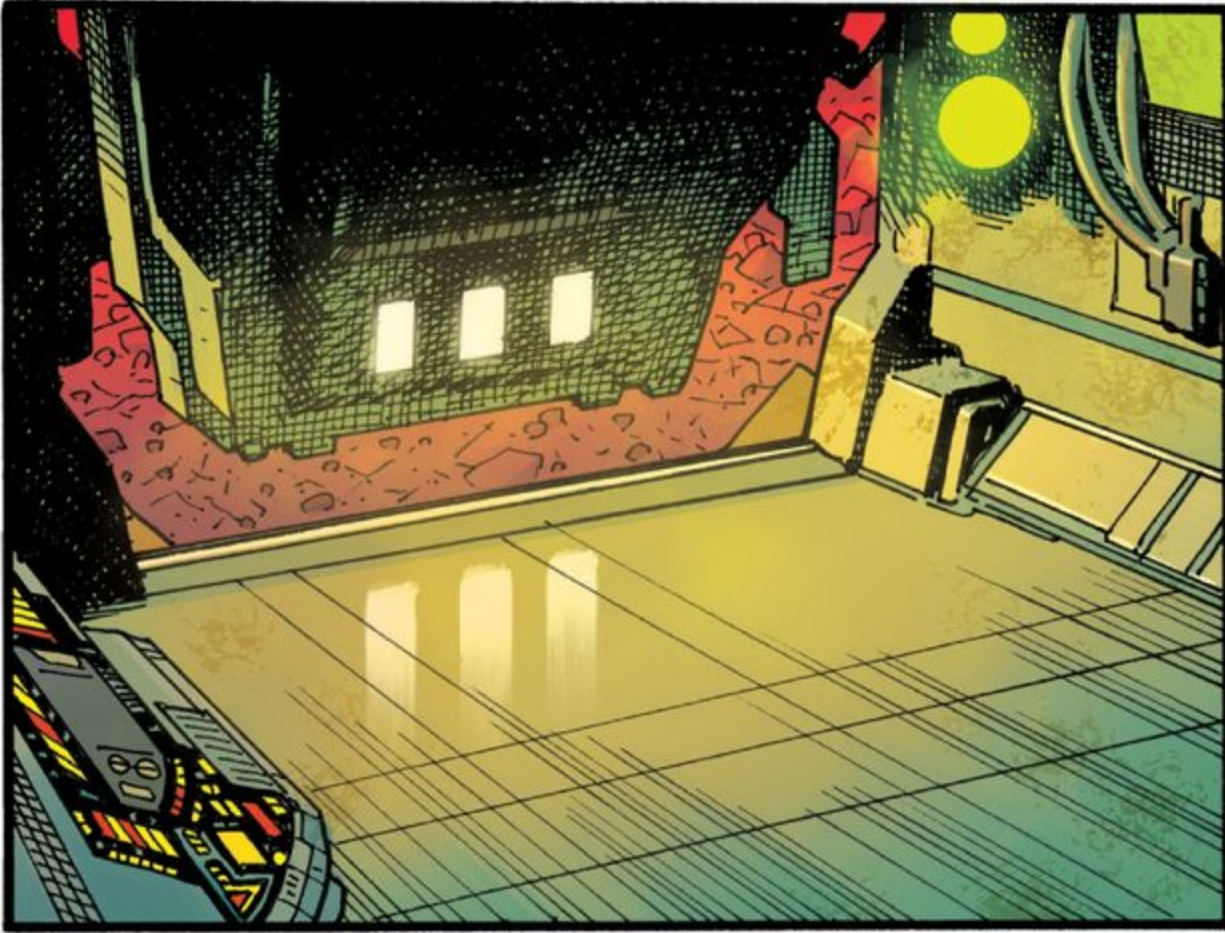


HELP--

--ME.









AAAAAANNND WE'RE BACK!

Or did we ever really leave? Well, I certainly didn't! And who remembers those runs on *Amazing Spider-Man* or *Hulk* anyway? Marvel who? All joking aside, it's great to have rescued Ryan from the MCU and gotten him back where he belongs! And oh, boy does he belong here! How great was that first issue? Just stunning work from that guy! (Send us a letter! We'll maybe print it!)

It's kind of weird for me, after writing over 144 issues of INVINCIBLE over the course of 16 years, I started writing the pilot episode of the animated series a matter of weeks after finishing writing the final issue. I was writing that episode BEFORE the final issue actually saw print. And while it may seem like there were some gaps in the show's release schedule (heh), we were working almost nonstop since that point. That's how you got season 3 so fast. (Didn't you love it?) So my point is, I've now been living in the Invincible Universe for a solid 22 years and counting without interruption. So, I think it's clear how much I love this world and these characters Cory, Ryan and myself have brought to life over the years.

But there's another reason why I'm so excited about this series!

You love INVINCIBLE, too? Sure you do. This comic will give you a lot of what you're looking for, I promise! Hoping to see some cool cameos and call backs to the INVINCIBLE series, well...just you wait. It's coming! BUT the main thing that has me jazzed for this series is that while Ryan and I are going to be expanding the story of one of our favorite characters from the series, we're also going to be expanding the universe in some cool ways. Adding new characters, new concepts, new worlds and all kinds of things you might not expect.

The Invincible Universe grew in a lot of different ways that may not have been expected over the course of its 144 issues and often times didn't really fit the definition of a superhero comic. In our first six issues alone you're going to see Battle Beast morph from sci-fi to sci-fi/horror to sci-fi/fantasy. Hey, we're in space with spaceships and aliens...you can't really get away from the sci-fi in this series. Or can we?

One other thing to note...Battle Beast has been at the center of some of the most epic and memorable fights in the

INVINCIBLE series. So, the goal with this book is definitely to TOP what has come before. That's a tall order, and Ryan and I may not achieve it...but that's our goal, that's what's driving us with every scene of this book, to top our past selves.

And yes, we see this first issue merely as "a good start". Just you wait.

Before I sign off, I have to welcome ANNALISA LEONI to the team! You know her brilliant colors from a number of things, OBLIVION SONG and the recent Energon Universe COBRA COMMANDER series among them. She's absolutely fantastic. She's colored Ryan briefly in the past for some cover images, but now that she's handling full issues of Ryan's work, I honestly can't imagine him colored by anyone else. Annalisa is bringing such a vibrant and unique palette to this expansive world we're exploring, it's just really cool.

I also want to shout out the esteemed RUS WOOTON, letterer on nearly every single comic I've ever written. Rus brings his A-game to this series as he does on everything else. He always brings a unique flavor to every series he does. Hilariously, I was recently looking at a new comic thinking "Who lettered this? This stuff is great! Oh, no...do I want to work with a letterer other than Rus?" And then I looked and the comic was lettered by Rus. I just chuckled.

Big thanks to the Skybound editorial team. Ben Abernathy has been doing great work with the Energon Universe and I really love working with him. So, it's great to have him here to get yelled at by Ryan. Also shout out to Andres Juarez for not only the great design work on the series, but providing us with a kick ass logo, too.

Huge thanks to all of you for giving this issue a look! If this is your first Invincible comic, we promise this won't spoil the series, so by all means, still check that out some time. If you like what you see here, I'm sure you'll enjoy the main series.

See you all back here next month, right?!

Robert Kirkman
Backwoods, CA
2025

SEND EMAILS TO:
INVINCIBLE@SKYBOUND.COM



HERP
THE
PERP!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT THE
HELL YOU DID THIS
TIME, BUT YOUR ASS
IS DUE BACK IN
JAIL, SO GUESS
WHO GETS THE
HONORS?









HE'S GOT A GUN!

THUNDER, GIMME BUCKSHOT.

NOT A CHANCE, AKELDAMA. THAT WOULD END HIM AT THIS RANGE.



NOT THE TIME, THUNDER!

I'M NOT A KILLER, BLOOD! PICK SOMETHING ELSE!

FFFFFFF--!



NNNNNNNN!

DAMMIT, THUNDER! YOU JUST SAID YOU'D DO ANYTHING FOR ME!

BUCKSHOT, NOW!

SORRY, NOT HAPPENING.



SCORE ONE FOR HERP THE PERP!

GIMME EXPANDO!

NOW WE'RE TALKING.



AARRRGHH!

FIP

FIP

FIP

FIP

FIP

FIP

FIP

COME FOR THE TALKING GUN!
STAY FOR THE ALL-OUT INSANITY!

AN ACTION EPIC FROM CREATORS
BENITO CERENO, E.J. SU & ROBERT KIRKMAN



MEET
BLOOD

AND
THUNDER

CERENO SU MSASSYK KIRKMAN

BLOOD & THUNDER

THE HUNT IS ON MAY 2025



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THE CARNAGE CONTINUES IN ISSUE #2
AVAILABLE JUNE 18, 2025



RYAN OTTLEY & ANNALISA LEONI
COVER A

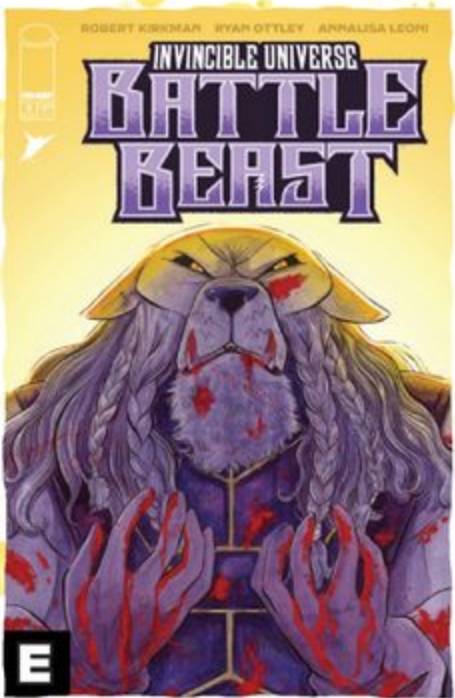
DOUG MAHNKE & ANNALISA LEONI
COVER B

E.J. SU
COVER C

MAHMUD ASRAR & MATTHEW WILSON
COVER D

EMI LENOX
COVER E

LEE BERMEJO
COVER F



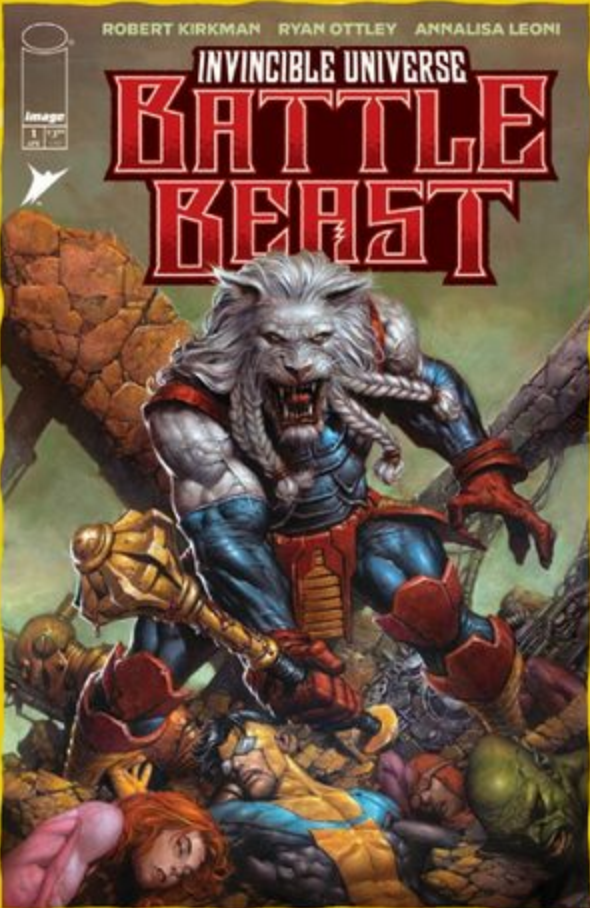
COLLECT ALL THESE EPIC
BATTLE BEAST COVERS!

COVER A



RYAN OTTLEY &
ANNALISA LEONI

COVER B



DAVID FINCH

COVER C



BLIND BAG

COVER D



E.J. SU

COVER E



KAEL NGU

COVER F



ARTHUR ADAMS
& TANYA LEHOX

COVER G



JONBOY MEYERS

COVER H



RYAN OTTLEY &
ANNALISA LEONI

COVER I



SKETCH COVER

COVER J



RYAN OTTLEY, ANNALISA LEONI
& ANDRES JUAREZ



